

I-5 – South 317th Street HOV Direct Access Project Update

Edition 2, September 14, 2004

In this issue: Construction Update / Southbound I-5 Lane Closures / Contractor - Icon Materials / Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Construction Update

On Thursday, September 2, workers poured concrete for the **bridge support** on the west side of the freeway (to the right of the southbound lanes). Last week, crews removed the wood forms that held the concrete while it set. This week, they are building small **retaining walls** next to the bridge support.

In the I-5 median, crews are continuing to grade for the **temporary roadway**. They are also placing a layer of rocks that will support the pavement. They will pave the temporary roadway in the median later this month. Next month, we'll shift southbound traffic to this temporary roadway to provide room for construction of the bridge supports and improvements to the southbound I-5 pavement.

Throughout the project area, workers are installing a **temporary lighting system** that will be used while the existing lighting system is taken out and upgraded.

For project information and construction photos, visit

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I5_S317th_DirectAccess/

Southbound I-5 Lane Closures

This week, drivers should anticipate daily single lane closures on I-5 southbound while crews build bridge supports for the South 317th Street Bridge. However, this work is weather-dependent and rain could delay these closures.

Contractor – Icon Materials

Most of the workers on the construction site work for Icon Materials, a private contractor, not the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) or Sound Transit. Icon Materials was competitively selected to build the I-5 South 317th HOV Direct Access Project. As with nearly all of our construction projects, we notify companies about upcoming construction jobs and invite them to competitively bid for the work. We review the bids and award the job to the contractor who offers the best value.

Icon Materials submitted the winning bid for the I-5 South 317th project. Icon workers are currently digging out the detention ponds and driving the trucks that haul away the dirt. Icon workers are also getting the median ready for paving.

Icon currently has about 30 employees working on the 317th project. These include fifteen truck drivers, four heavy equipment operators, three engineers, and eight general laborers. Many more Icon employees will join the project when median paving begins at the end of this month.

But Icon crews can't do all the work themselves. Next week we'll take a look at some of the subcontractors that Icon has hired to do specialty work, such as drainage and lighting system installation.

Highway Advisory Radio Updates

If you're driving through the project area, you can tune in to AM 1520 to hear this week's highway advisory radio project update. Each week we'll provide new information about what you're seeing as you travel through the area. Listen for **interesting facts** like this:

5,300 buses, carpools and vanpools get on and off I-5 at the 320th Street interchange each day. These vehicles merge across three lanes of traffic to get into and out of the HOV lanes. The new 317th Street direct access interchange will eliminate much of this merging.
